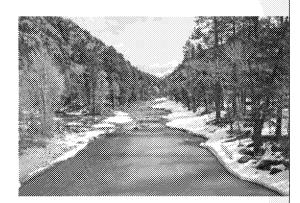


Gold King Mine Acid Mine Drainage Release -Analysis of Fate and Transport of Metals in the **Animas and San Juan Rivers**

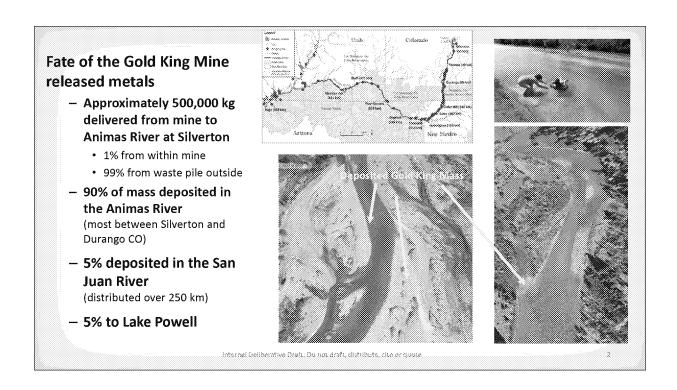
Water Quality Since the Release Event

August 2015 to November 2016

Gold King Team National Exposure Research Lab/ORD November 28 2016



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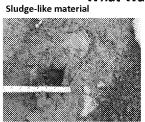


Gold King Effects Continued After the Plume Passed

CURRENT QUESTIONS:

- What were the Gold King effects on water quality after the event?
- * Has water quality returned to pre-event conditions?
- Was there be a second wave of contamination during 2016 snowmelt when high flows could mobilize deposits?
- * Can we recognize the Gold King influence given the pre-existing contamination from historic mining?

What Was Left Behind





Deposits along channel margins





John nai Deliberative Oraft: Do not draft, distribute, cite or quote

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Key Findings-Gold King Release Post Event

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- Post event water quality response from August to October 2015 varied by location
 - Animas in Colorado returned to background
 - Animas in New Mexico and San Juan River had elevated metals above expected
 - Chronic exceedances of water quality criteria revealed by monitoring
- * 2016 snowmelt had elevated metals throughout the system partly from Gold King, partly from historic mining impacts
 - Model results and analyses indicate GKM metals now out of rivers
 - 2016 samples after snowmelt at pre-event levels
 - We have a "fingerprint" unique to identify metals of the Gold King release
- There were water quality exceedances during the plume and post event varying by location and state or tribe, some due to Gold King

E.g. aluminum, lead, copper, zinc, arsenic

ORD findings will help inform EPA monitoring and reporting

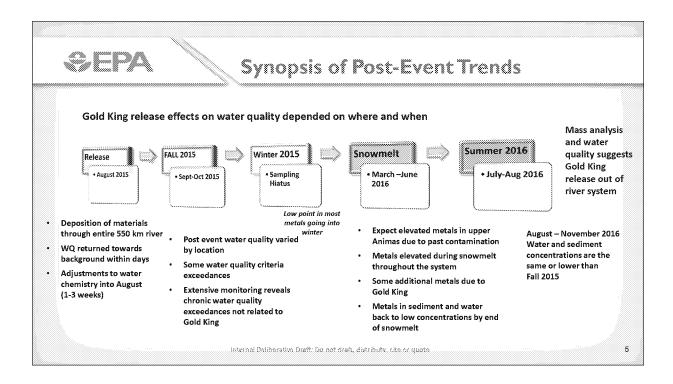
Animas at Bakers Bridge

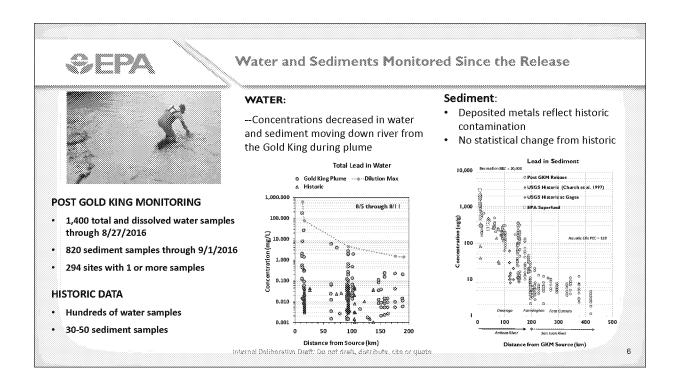
Animas at Bakers Bridge (above) and popular swimming beach north of Durango (right) August 2016

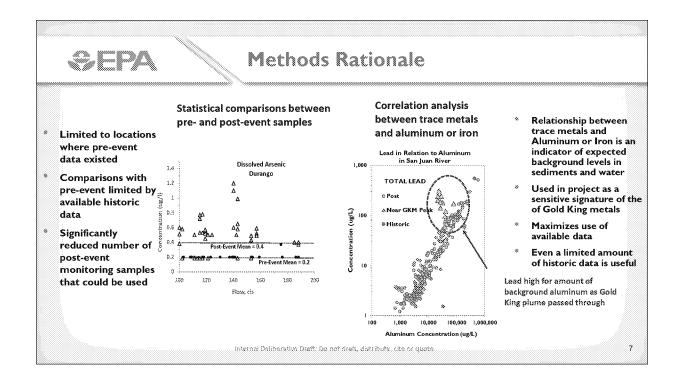
Both areas experienced high settling rates during plume

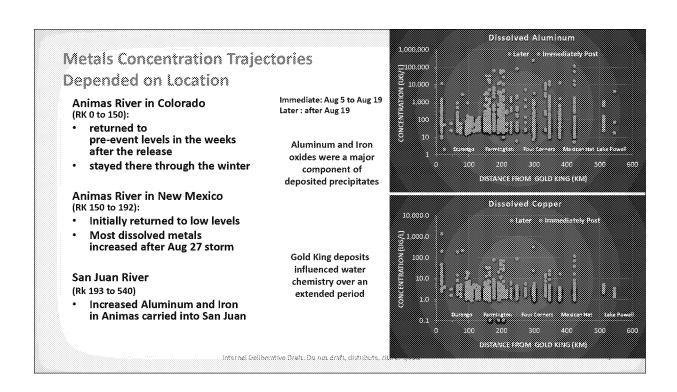


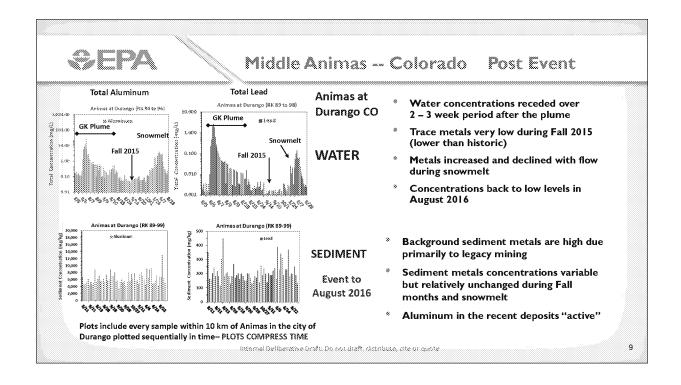
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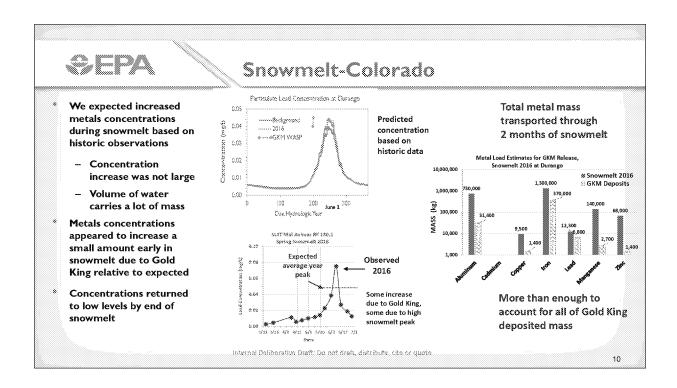


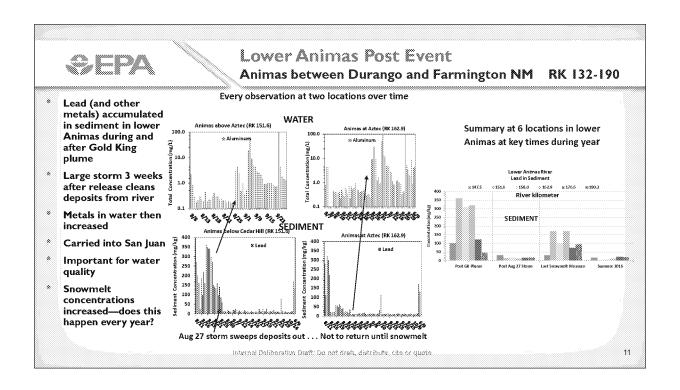


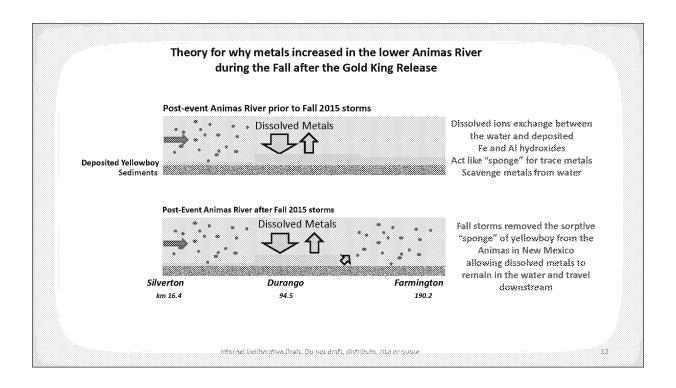


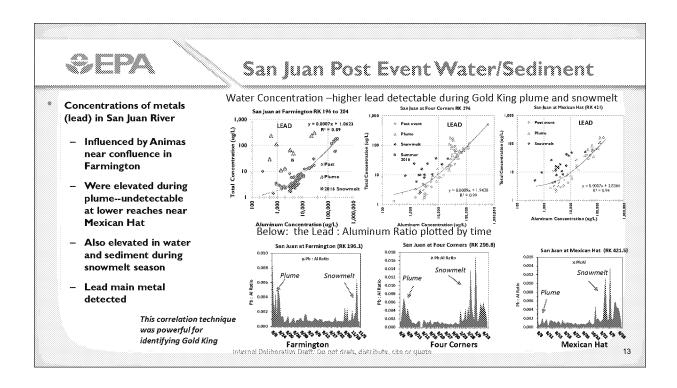














Has the System Returned to Pre-Event?

What Did Statistics Confirm About Post-Event Metals—Fall 2015?

Water

- Most metals significantly lower after Gold King in the middle Animas (Colorado)
- Elevated Iron and Aluminum in Iower Animas after August storms (New Mexico)
- Elevated Iron and Aluminum in San Juan throughout the period (NM, UT, Navajo)

Sedimen

• Despite large deposited mass, no significant increase in river sediments

What Remains to be Established?

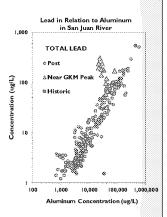
Water

- We saw a Gold King signature far down the San Juan during snowmelt (RK 350km – Montezuma Creek). Will that reoccur in later years?
- Can we reliably establish baseline relationships between Aluminum and other metals as evidence to confirm the end of GKM influence in the system?

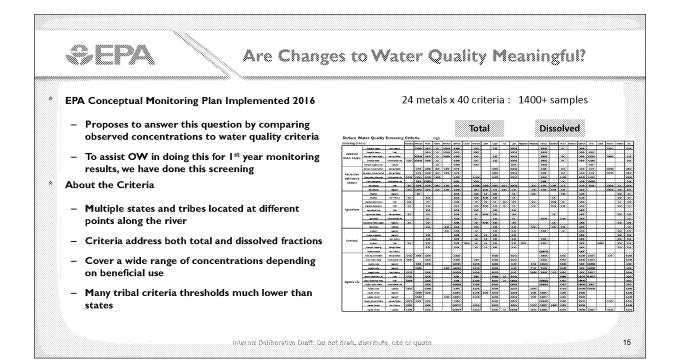
Sediment

We expect to see higher sediment mass moved during snowmelt every year in Colorado.
 Will we also see elevated metals during snowmelt in lower Animas and San Juan in 2016?

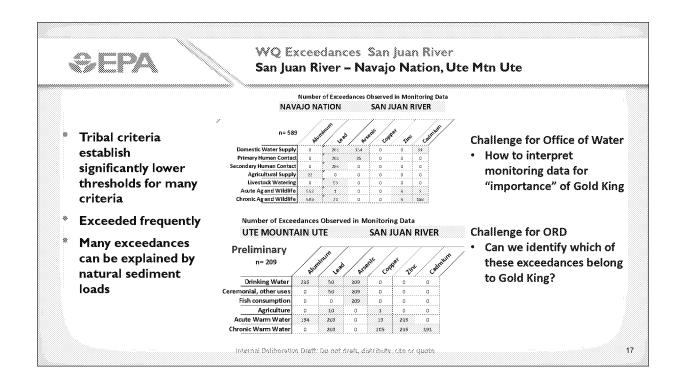
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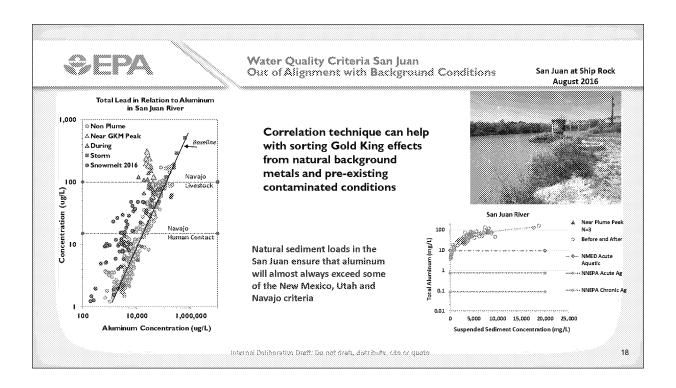


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| | \$EPA | WQ Exceedances During the Interval Fror | n August 2015 to August 2016 |
|------|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9990 | | Count of exceedances: yello | w in box indicates at least 1 Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data |
| * | There were | Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data | New Mexico ANIMAS RIVER |
| | water quality | Colorado ANIMAS RIVER | / <u>* </u> |
| | exceedances | / | n= 416 surface. Legal togget the Captain |
| | during the | n= 371 studenter est sereit copet tot descript | Domestic Supply 0 8 2 0 0 0 |
| | • | | Irrigation 3 0 0 0 0 0 |
| | Gold King | Agriculture 0 23 5 3 3 3 | Wildlife Habitat D 0 D D 0 D |
| | plume | Aquatic Acute 3 0 0 8 13 1 Aquatic Chronic 78 8 0 13 25 89 | Aquatic Acute 47 0 0 4 0 0 |
| 8 | There have | Agains circuit | |
| | been | Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data | Preliminary |
| | exceedances | UTAH SAN JUAN RIVER | Number of Exceedances Observed in Monitoring Data |
| | | / | New Mexico SAN JUAN RIVER |
| | post-event | n= 300 grander & grit get , springer | / s / / . / . / s / |
| | Some chronic, | Domestic Source 5 Domestic Source 5 | n= 223 burner bed beent corpe to |
| | • | Recreational 0 0 0 0 0 | Domestic Supply 3 3 0 0 0 |
| | some storm | | |
| | event related | Agricultural Uses 0 0 1 0 | Wildlife Habitat 0 0 0 0 0 |
| | | Livestock 19 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 Warm Water Fish 1-hr 36 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 | Aquatic Acute \$4 0 0 0 0 0 Aquatic Chronic \$55 8 0 7 5 6 |
| | | Warm Water Fish 4-day 25 0 7 2 6 | Adams and M |







Key Findings-Gold King Release Post Event

- ORD produced hydrologic and geochemical evaluations of the Gold King release during and for a year following the release
- * Post event water quality response from August to October 2015 varied by location
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E.g. aluminum, lead, copper, zinc, arsenic



Next Steps:

- Finalizing ORD Report
- Working with OWOW to have ORD report support EPA obligations for a 1st year monitoring report
- Evaluating monitoring needs going forward
- Publish findings

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1.9



Project Team

ORD/NERL

- · Kate Sullivan, Hydrology, project lead
- · Chris Knightes, WASP lead, water quality
- · Mike Cyterski, Data analysis, statistics
- · John Washington, Geochemistry
- · Steve Kraemer, Groundwater
- · Craig Barber, Fish effects
- · Anne Neale, Megan Mehaffey, EnviroAtlas
- · Lourdes Prieto, Data acquisition and GIS
- Elena Horvath & Megan Culler (EPA Student Services Contractors);
- Brian Avants; Mike Mangiante (EPA ORISE Fellows)

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| | | Surface W | urface Water Quality Screening Criteria mg/L | | | | | | | | | | | Tot | aı | Dissolved | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|---------|------------------|--------------|------------------|---------|----------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|
| Water Quality | | Screening Crite | ria | | Alumbur | Astinoo | 4/sevic | Barken | teryllian | Coderius | calcium | consum | cobst | Copper | Issa | Lead Magnesium | Magaese Merce | | (ki)y bdessu | táckei Pots | assum Selenium | n Silve | Sodier | 1 The lines | Vanodius | Tink |
| water Quanty | | | Sometic Supply | Herr Mexico | _ | 0.0050 | 0.015 | 40 | 0.0000 | Seese | | 6 rw | | 130 | | 63959 | | 0.6920 | | 64 | 9880 | 1 | | 1000 | | 30.50 |
| | Criteria | Domestic | Domestic Source | Utah | _ | | oute. | 10 | dustrio | 6:010 | 4 | 0.056 | | | | 0.0030 | | 0.0026 | | | pucse | | | - | _ | |
| Circuia | | Water Supply | Domestic Water Supply | tievajo tiesion | 000000 | 030360 | | 3.8 | 0.00000 | 00050 | | 630 | | 3.80 | } | 20150 | | 0.00.0 | | 94 | 0.050 | | | 0.0050 | | 0.30 |
| | | | Drinking Water Decrestic Supply 1-Day | Use Mountain Use celerade | 9,2950 | 9,00300 | 0.000 | 10 | | 5,0050 3,0056 | | 6 te | | 100 | 1 | 6,656 6,656 | _ | 0.0004 | - | 9.5 | 9,000 | 0.140 6.16 | | +- | - | 3.00 |
| | | | Printary Human Contact | Parvajo Partion | | 6376 | 10,050 | 960 | 1200 | b.478 | | | | 1,550 | | 100150 | | 6.266 | | 167 | 4670 | | | 100750 | | 2944 |
| | Use both dissolved and total fractions Recreation and Human Contact | | Secondary Human Contact | Navajo Nation | | 9.890 | 6.296 | 59.0 | 1400 | 0.570 | | T | | 9,856 | | 68559 | | 6.285 | | 187 | 5,836 | 4.60 | | 4,8056 | | |
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| 3 | | Fish consumption | Ute Mountain Ute | | 0456 | 0 6000K | | | Societ | | 570.5 | | | | | | 0.000 | | 446 | 4399 | ter | 8 | | | 266 | |
| į | | Recreational | Utsh | 621 | 6.238 | 0.100 | 323.2 | | 0.062 | | 63166 | 7.4416 | 6.266 | 202.6 | 69166 | 11.0 | 1242 | 1 101 | 17.5 | 5362 | 101 | 8 | 6.6256 | | 287.6 | |
| i | | | Recreational | Region 6 | COLO | 0.0570 | 0,859 | 33,¢ | X444 | 9,0536 | ļ | 200.0 | x.ese | 470 | 1010 | 0.39 | 7.88 | 0.859 | 9,688 | 3.50 | 9,440 | 4 | | 03825 | 0.03 | 3000 |
| | | trigation | Region 6 | 2000000 | 8.9 | 2000000 | - | | som | | 0.14 | 44 | 920 | - | 88 | 026 | - | 0000000 | 0.20 | 0,359 | 4 | - | + | 0.00 | 2.6 | |
| | | | irrigation (rrigation (short-term) | Here Mexico | 3.8 | | 0.10 | - | | 9.036 0.050 | - | 6.00 | 0.850 | 0.76 | 2804 | 346 | SC.H | _ | 10 BCSB | 20 | 0.83b | 9- | _ | +- | 0.66 | |
| i | A lot of | Agriculture | trigetion (long-term) | Utsh | 20.W | | 6.89 | | | sote | | 230 | 5.E 6.556 | 628 | 50 | 50.0 | 926 | | 0.510 | 0.39 | 0.636 | | | + | 9.80 | 24 |
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| 1 | variation for | | Agricultural Supply | Navajo Nation | 40 | | 28 | | | 0.050 | | 10 | x.esc | 626 | | 30.5 | | | 100 | | 9,000 | 3 | | | 0.10 | 1064 |
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| | | Aquatic Chassic | Colorado | 1 1940 | i | 6.156 | 1 | | 630007 | 4:1 | 60116 | 1 | bass. | 3.6 | casuat: | 8 6241 | 0.00001 | | 0.0073 | 6,00,00 | 0.660 | 81 | 6.0150 | 1 | 62326 | |